

BLOCKWATCH

If you are a resident, business owner or employee of a local business and are interested in participating in the Bedford Heights PACT BLOCKWATCH program contact Ptl. Harris. <u>PACT TIP-LINE COMING SOON!</u>

Station: 440-439-1234

Email: garyh@bedfordheights.gov



This TIP LINE will soon be available for residents to confidentially share anything about a crime, a planned crime, or suspicious activity in the city. Knowledge of crimes or potential criminal acts, need to be brought to the attention of the Bedford Heights Police Department, so we can immediately act. Examples of activity which should be reported are:

- · The identity of a person who may be threatening another
- The identity of someone who may be suicidal
- Violent writings, notes, voicemail, or email threatening to others
- · Rumors of planned violence or an assault on someone
- Use of illegal drugs
- Domestic violence occurring, or which may occur in the city
- Activity or conditions that may be illegal or dangerous
- The identity of a criminal suspect, or the location of a wanted person

Remember, the TIP LINE is confidential. You do not have to leave your name. Sometimes additional information would be helpful, and there may be a reason to contact you, so it may be useful for you to leave your number. But the most important thing is that the information is reported to someone who can do something about it.







BASIC INFORMATION NEEDED WHEN REPORTING AN INCIDENT TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Who is involved in the incident?

(Detailed description including suspects or subjects type/color of clothing, height, weight, hair style, complexion, gender, names and/or number of persons involved if known, ect.)

What type of incident is taking place?

(Detailed and factual information regarding the incident and if persons involved are injured)

When did the incident occur?

(Detailed information regarding the time, date and day of the incident)

Where did the incident take place?

(Detailed information regarding the location and address)

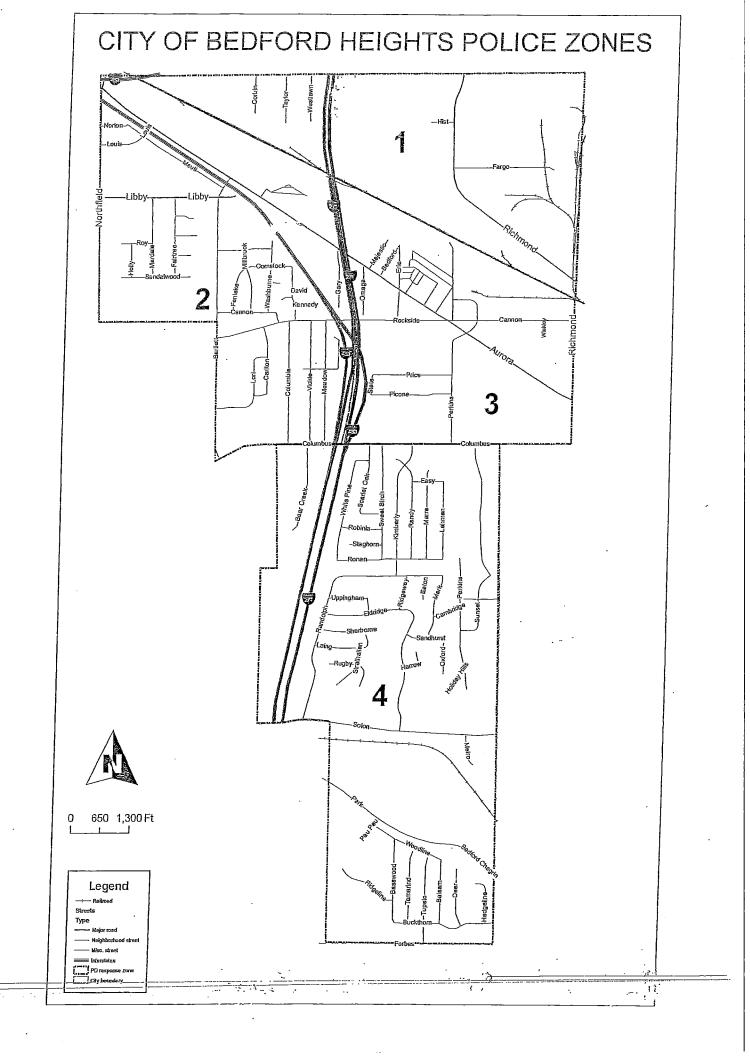
Why?

(If known)

How?

(If known)





Within the past year to date there have been a total of 61 <u>burglary crimes</u> reported to the Bedford Heights Police Department.

Zone 1:

We have received a total of <u>5 burglary</u> reports from this area within the past year.

Zone 2:

We have received a total of <u>15 burglary</u> reports from this area within the past year.

Zone 3:

We have received a total of <u>15 burglary</u> reports from this area within the past year.

Zone 4:

We have received a total of <u>26 burglary</u> reports from this area within the past year.





The Burglary Basics:

The MOST important thing YOU can do is CALL THE POLICE to report a CRIME or any SUSPICIOUS activity. You have to be the eyes of your neighborhood. And remember you can always remain a pair of anonymous eyes!

Light up your residence, lock your doors at all times, and call the Police when you see something suspicious.

- · Make your home look occupied, and make it difficult to break in.
- Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time, lock your doors.
- Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.
- · Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers or flyers build up while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail, or arrange for a friend or neighbor to take them regularly.
- Arrange for your lawn to be mowed if you are going away for an extended time.
- Check your locks on doors and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary.
- Push button locks on door knobs are easy for burglars to open. Install deadbolt locks on all your outside doors.
- Sliding glass doors are vulnerable. Special locks are available for better security.
- Other windows may need better locks. Check with a locksmith or hardware store for alternatives.

Don't Tempt a Thief:

- · Lawn mowers, barbecues and bicycles are best stored out of sight
- · Always lock your garden sheds and garages.
- · Use curtains on garage and basement windows.
- · Never leave notes on your door such as "Gone shopping."

Locks...Get the Best:

- No lock, regardless of its quality, can be truly effective. Key-in dead bolt locks provide minimum security. Ask a locksmith for advice on your situation.
- Change locks immediately if your keys are lost or stolen.
- · When moving into a new home, have all locks changed.

Targeting the Outside:

- Have adequate exterior lighting. A motion-sensitive light is recommended for backyards.
- Trim trees and shrubs so that they cannot be used as hiding places for intruders.
- Make sure your door hinges are on the inside.

Windows:

- Most windows can be pinned for security.
- Drill a 3/16" hole on a slight downward slant through the inside window frame and halfway into the outside frame place a nail in the hole to secure the window.

Alarms:

- An alarm system is excellent for home security. It provides peace of mind to homeowners, especially while on vacation. There is a wide variety of alarm systems on the market.
- Make several inquiries to different companies for the best security system available to you.
- If you have a home alarm system, use it! Activate your alarm system Alarm systems are only useful when you remember to activate them.
- Many individuals have alarm systems but do not arm them because it is inconvenient. Many burglars know this and will not be deterred by a window sticker or sign indicating that the home has an alarm system.

If Your Home Is Broken Into:

If you come home to find an unexplained open/broken window or door:

- Do not enter the perpetrator may still be inside.
- Use a neighbor's phone to call police.
- Do not touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected for evidence.
- Write down the license plate numbers of any suspicious vehicles.
- · Note the descriptions of any suspicious persons.

Other precautions you should take:

- Never leave keys under doormats, flowerpots, mailboxes or other "secret" hiding places -- burglars know where to look for hidden keys.
- Keep a detailed inventory of your valuable possessions, including a
 description of the items, date of purchase and original value, and serial
 numbers, and keep a copy in a safe place away from home this is a good
 precaution in case of fires or other disasters. Make a photographic or video
 record of valuable objects, heirlooms and antiques. Your insurance company
 can provide assistance in making and keeping your inventory.
- Trim your shrubbery around your home to reduce cover for burglars.
- Be a good neighbor. If you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Mark your valuables with your driver's license number with an engraver you
 can borrow from your precinct. Marked items are harder for a burglar to
 dispose of and easier for police to recover.
- Join the BLOCKWATCHERS. We can help you work with your neighbors to improve security and reduce risk of burglary.
- Consider installing a burglar alarm system.

Car Burglaries

Tips on how to avoid car break-ins:

- Do not leave valuables in plain view: (GPS devices, lap tops, PDA's, cell phones, MP3's, wallets, purses)
- · Do not leave windows or sunroof open.
- · Do not leave doors unlocked.
- Do not leave keys in the vehicle.
- · Do not leave the garage door opener in plain view.
- Do not leave out items with personal information.
- Do not move valuable items to the trunk while in public view.
- Slow Down and use common sense before you leave your car.



Within the past year to date there have been a total of 34 auto theft crimes reported to the Bedford Heights Police Department.

Zone 1:

We have received a total of <u>7 auto theft</u> reports from this area within the past year.

Zone 2:

We have received a total of 10 auto theft reports from this area within the past year.

Zone 3:

We have received a total of 13 auto theft reports from this area within the past year.

Zone 4:

We have received a total of <u>4 auto theft</u> reports from this area within the past year





• Never leave your car running unattended, even to dash into a business, store, etc.;

 Never leave any keys in the car or ignition, inside a locked garage, or in hide-a-key boxes:

Always roll up your windows and lock the car, even if it is parked in front of your home;

 Never leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked. Put them in the trunk out of sight;

Always park in high-traffic, well-lighted areas, when possible;

• Install a mechanical device that locks the steering wheel, column, or brakes. These devices will deter some criminals;

 Investigate the purchase of a vehicle theft tracking/security system, especially if you own one of the frequently stolen model vehicles;

 Never leave personal identification documents, vehicle ownership title, or credit cards in your vehicle;

 If you must leave your key with a valet, attendant, or mechanic leave only the ignition key. Make sure you are dealing with a reputable firm.

• In high theft areas the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) should be etched on windows, doors, fenders and trunk lid. This makes it difficult for a thief to market your stolen car parts.

• Copy your license plate and vehicle information (VIN) numbers on a card and keep them with you. If your vehicle is stolen, the police will need this information to take

Many vehicles today come with some type of security system from the factory.
 Normally there are upgraded systems available if you ask. The best choices are systems that shut off the fuel supply so that a car can't be started or driven.

If your vehicle is stolen, report it to the police immediately.





Within the past year to date there have been a total of 8 <u>robbery crimes</u> reported to the Bedford Heights Police Department.

Zone 1:

We have received a total of $\underline{0}$ robbery reports from this area within the past year.

Zone 2:

We have received a total of $\underline{1}$ robbery report from this area within the past year.

Zone 3:

We have received a total of 4 robbery reports from this area within the past year.

Zone 4:

We have received a total of <u>3 robbery</u> reports from this area within the past year





Home Safety

Keep your doors and windows locked. Too often, criminals get into homes through unlocked doors and windows.

Consider installing solid core entry doors with reinforced door frames and dead bolt locks.

Identify a "safe room" inside the home where residents can go in an emergency. This room should have reinforced doors, an exit to the outside and a telephone.

Always verify by telephone that the person works for the company they say they represent and has been sent for a reason. A peephole with a 180 degree viewing angle is excellent for you to verify who is on the other side of your door.

Never open your door to anyone you do not know. Exterior lighting provides additional protection from intruders. Remember that criminals may hide in shadows.

Always acknowledge a caller at your door to determine who they are and what they want. Some burglars ring the door bell, and if there is no answer, they break in.

Vehicle Safety

Park in a well lighted area so you can see your car and the surroundings from as far away as possible.

Have your car key ready before you approach the car so that you can make your entry into the vehicle as quickly as possible. When you are looking for your keys, you may be distracted from what is going on around you.

Glance into the back seat and floor boards of your car before you enter and check for anyone who may be hiding inside. This is particularly important if you drive a van type vehicle.

Always lock all doors whether you are in or out of your car. Keep the windows rolled up enough so an arm cannot be inserted through the opening

If you think you are being followed, do not go home. Go to a safe place such as a police station, fire station, business or other populated area.

Home Robbery Tips / During the Robbery

REMAIN CALM. DO NOT RESIST.

Do not try to be a hero. Take no action that would jeopardize your own safety.

Follow the robber's directions, but do not volunteer more than he asks for.

Advise the robber of any unusual moves you must make. Assure him you will cooperate.

If possible, activate the alarm only if you can do so safely without detection.

MAKE MENTAL NOTES

Make a mental note of the robber's race, age, height sex, clothing, complexion, color of hair and eyes, etc. Note anything unusual about the robber, such as scars or tattoos.

Note the number of accomplices and how they left the premises, direction of travel, type and color of the car and the license number.

Note type, size and color of the weapon.

Watch where the robber puts his or her hands or whether he or she touches anything. Fingerprints might be left behind.

Home Robbery Tips / After the Robbery

Call the police immediately after the robbery. The person who calls the police should be able to stay on the phone if the dispatcher requests.

Lock all doors and ask all witnesses to remain until the officers arrive. If a witness must leave, obtain his or her name and address.

All witnesses should write down a description of all the suspects. Do not discuss the robbery or compare notes about the robber's appearance with anyone.

Protect the crime scene. Do not touch anything.

If you were given a note by the robber, handle it carefully. Hold it by the edges so that fingerprints on the paper will not be smeared. Put it in a safe place and keep it for the police. This is an important piece of evidence.

Be Informed Be Prepared.

Actively participate in all training sessions offered to become thoroughly familiar with your home safety plan.

Have a plan.

Mentally review as often as possible the actions you must perform if confronted with an emergency. The plan should become "second nature" to you.

